

The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large red speech bubble shape is centered on the page, containing the title and author information.

Toward HIGHER Education

Confessions of a Failed Perfectionist

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Overlappings and Redundancies

- **Less is more.**
- **Free time and energy for thought, reflection—a space of one's own.**
- **Automate what you can.**
- **Embrace subjectivity in classroom dynamics.**
- **Structure is *essential*, not a necessary evil.**
- **Grading *may* be a necessary evil, but feedback is dialogue.**

Confession No. 1

- **I am not infinite.**
 - **Knowledge**
 - **Time**
 - **Energy**

Confession No. 2

- Prerequisite for *teaching* critical thinking is learning to think critically about *what I teach*.
 - What **MUST** be learned in this class? Why?
 - What can I expect students to learn on their own? Where do they need my help? In other words, what is my purpose *here* and *now*?
 - What are my limits (knowledge, time, energy)?
 - What tools would more effectively and efficiently translate essential purpose to student learning?

Confession No. 3

- **Students are not necessarily children or adults, but I treat them as both.**
 - **Expectations**
 - **Self-determination and agency**

Confession No. 4

- There may be a confusion of my means and ends. Does my technique *reflect* OR *respond to* the world as I find it?
 - Transactionalism in academics
 - ❖ Commodification—product
 - ❖ “Industrialization” and mechanization of academic labor—producer
 - Gamification
 - Edu-tainment/info-tainment

Confession No. 5

- Students are not here for me, but I *am* what they get.
 - Problem of persona
 - ❖ Unavoidable impact
 - ❖ De-emphasizing to de-location
 - ❖ Trivializing myself, the teacher
 - Problem of authority
 - ❖ Origin of classroom authority
 - ❖ Reality of *designer* along with design
 - ❖ Trivializing what I'm teaching

Confession No. 6

- I am a *teacher*, not a tool.
 - “Omni”-teacher
 - Savior complex
 - Plugging the hole in the dam

Confession No. 7

- I teach in *community*. I am not alone.
 - “Road Warrior” mentality not required
 - Loss of scholarly synthesis exacerbated by hyper-specialization, confused priorities, and academic tribalism
 - Need for meaningful, specific cross-discipline dialogue

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Toward *HIGHER* Education...